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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Botswana: * draft resolution

Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the relevant strategic objectives and actions set out in the Beijing Platform for Action¹ and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,² the goals and targets set forth in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,³ adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session, in 2001, and the HIV/AIDS-related goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 2000,⁴ in particular the aim of Member States to have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS,

Recalling the commitment from the 2005 World Summit of developing and implementing a package for HIV prevention, treatment and care with the aim of coming as close as possible to the goal of universal access to treatment by 2010,

Acknowledging that prevention, care, support and treatment for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS are mutually reinforcing elements of an effective response that must be integrated into a comprehensive approach to combat the epidemic,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Southern African Development Community.

¹ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution I, annexes I and II.

² Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

³ General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 55/2.



Recognizing that populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children, are at an increased risk of exposure to HIV infection,

Deeply concerned that the global HIV/AIDS pandemic disproportionately affects women and girls and that the majority of new HIV infections occur among young people,

Concerned that women's unequal legal, economic and social status, as well as violence against women and girls and other cultural and physiological factors, increases their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS,

Also concerned that women and girls have different and unequal access to and use of health resources for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS,

1. *Stresses with deep concern* that the HIV/AIDS emergency, with its devastating scale and impact on women and girls, requires urgent actions in all fields and at all levels;

2. *Stresses* that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are fundamental elements in the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and are essential for reversing the pandemic;

3. *Expresses its concern* that the HIV/AIDS pandemic reinforces gender inequalities, that women and girls bear a disproportionate share of the burden imposed by the HIV/AIDS crisis, that they are more easily infected, that they play a key role in care and that they become more vulnerable to poverty as a result of the HIV/AIDS crisis;

4. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments, supported by relevant actors, including civil society, to intensify national efforts and international cooperation in the implementation of the commitments contained in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS⁵ and the Beijing Platform for Action¹ and to work towards effectively reflecting in their national policies and strategies the gender dimension of the pandemic, in line with the time-bound goals of the Declaration and the Platform for Action;

5. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to achieve universal access to reproductive health care by 2015, as set out in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,⁵ integrating this goal into strategies to attain internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration⁴ aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV/AIDS and eradicating poverty;

6. *Urges* Governments to take all necessary measures to empower women and strengthen their economic independence and to protect and promote their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection;

7. *Also urges* Governments to strengthen initiatives that would increase the capacities of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV

⁵ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution I, annex.

infection, principally through the provision of health care and health services, including for sexual and reproductive health, that integrate HIV prevention, treatment and care and include voluntary counselling and testing and through prevention education that promotes gender equality within a culturally and gender-sensitive framework;

8. *Further urges* Governments to expand access to treatment, in a progressive and sustainable manner, including the prevention and treatment of opportunistic diseases and effective use of antiretroviral medication and to promote access to low-cost effective drugs and related pharmaceutical products;

9. *Urges* Governments to ensure that women and girls have equitable and sustained access to treatment for AIDS and opportunistic infections, appropriate to their age, health and nutritional status, with the full protection of their human rights, including their sexual and reproductive rights, and to monitor access to treatment by age, sex and continuity of care;

10. *Calls upon* Governments to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls in relation to HIV/AIDS, including through challenging stereotypes, stigmatization, discriminatory attitudes and gender inequalities, and to encourage the active involvement of men and boys in this regard;

11. *Encourages* the continued collaboration among the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the World Health Organization and other United Nations agencies, as well as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other international organizations, to address and reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS, in particular in the context of emergency situations and as part of humanitarian efforts, and also encourages the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in their work;

12. *Further encourages* the ongoing work by the United Nations system in providing widespread information on the gender dimension of the pandemic, including through the collection of sex-disaggregated data, and in raising awareness about the critical intersection between gender inequality and HIV/AIDS;

13. *Requests* Member States to work in partnership with the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, convened by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and partners, to ensure that national AIDS programmes better respond to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls;

14. *Urges* Governments to rapidly scale up access to treatment programmes to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV, to encourage men to participate with women in programmes designed to prevent mother-to-child transmission and to ensure that women who participate in these programmes are guaranteed sustained treatment and care after pregnancy;

15. *Encourages* the design and implementation of programmes to enable men, including young men, to adopt safe and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour and to use effective methods to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS;

16. *Recognizes* the importance of young men and women having access to the information, education, including peer education and youth-specific HIV education, and services necessary to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection, with the full participation of young persons, parents, families, educators and health-care providers;

17. *Calls for* enhanced efforts by all relevant actors to include a gender perspective in the development of HIV/AIDS programmes and policies and in the training of personnel involved in implementing such programmes, including through focusing on the role of men and boys in addressing HIV/AIDS;

18. *Urges* Governments to continue to promote the participation and the significant contribution of people living with HIV/AIDS, young people and civil-society actors in addressing the problem of HIV/AIDS in all its aspects, including promoting a gender perspective, and also to promote their full involvement and participation in the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of HIV/AIDS programmes;

19. *Welcomes* the financial contributions made to date to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, urges further contributions to sustain the Fund, and calls upon all countries to encourage the private sector to contribute to the Fund;

20. *Calls upon* all Governments to take measures to ensure that the necessary resources are made available, in particular from donor countries and also from national budgets, in line with the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;

21. *Invites* the Secretary-General to consider the gender dimensions of the epidemic when preparing the report requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/224 of 23 December 2005 and in making all preparations for and organizing the 2006 follow-up meeting on the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly;

22. *Recommends* that the 2006 follow-up meeting on the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly take measures to ensure the inclusion of gender-equality perspectives throughout its deliberations and that it pay attention to the situation of women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS;

23. *Decides* to consider this question further at its fifty-first session.
